

Typed on Mr. Maury's personal stationery.

4 June 1971

Mr. Jack Anderson
1612 K Street N. W.
Room 506
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Anderson:

Enclosed is the item from the Congressional Record which I mentioned to you at Sy's last night. We've been getting a lot of flack lately about alleged CIA involvement in the drug traffic and I was glad to see Mr. Ingersoll's letter to Representative Gubser, which I think sets the record straight. Therefore, I was happy to hear you say last night that you might use it in your column.

Sorry we didn't have a chance to chat further at Sy's but hope we meet again soon.

Sincerely,

John M. Maury

Enclosure

Distribution:

Original - Addressee

1 - DCI

1 - Mr. Goodwin

1 - Chrono

1 - Subject *Drug traffic*
DDP -

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5. [REDACTED] JMM) At a social gathering on 3 June, I mentioned to Jack Anderson, the columnist, our concern over allegations of involvement in the drug traffic in Southeast Asia and told him I had noted an interesting letter on the subject from Mr. Ingersoll of BNDD to Representative Charles Gubser which set the record straight. Anderson said he would be interested in seeing this and might use it in his column. I said I would send him a copy, which I did today.

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6. [REDACTED] JMM) Al Westphal, Staff Consultant, House Foreign Affairs Committee, called to ask:

- a. If we had independent confirmation of press reports that the Lithuanian who had unsuccessfully attempted to defect to the U.S. Coast Guard had been tried and sentenced, and
- b. If we knew anything about a professed free lance journalist named Al Ruksenas who had been querying the Committee about the defector.

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7. [REDACTED] - JMM) Mr. Thad Murray, in the office of Senator William Spong, called to say that in response to a constituent inquiry they had received from Mr. Ingersoll, BNDD, a letter enthusiastically praising the Agency's role in assisting in dealing with the drug problem in Southeast Asia.

25X1

8. [REDACTED] - JMM) Called Phil Trimble, staff of the Muskie Subcommittee of Senate Foreign Relations Committee, to say I discussed with the Director the request that he appear on 15 June with ACDA Director Smith to discuss aspects of Soviet and ChiCom strategic threat relating to the SALT talks. I said the Director did not want to appear unresponsive, but had a particularly tight schedule because of an upcoming trip and had been alerted that he might be called to testify before Chairman Mahon's Appropriations Subcommittee on the 14th or 15th. I also said that he felt he could add nothing to his testimony on this subject before the Muskie Subcommittee on 29 March 1971. Trimble said he understood the new silos had changed the picture slightly. I said there had indeed been some new silos identified, but CIA and DIA agreed it was too soon to draw any conclusions as to their significance. I also said the Director would not want to appear in association with other witnesses. Trimble said he would pass these comments on to Senator Muskie and be back in touch with us.

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Drugs 71

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3 JUN 1971

Asian Officials Protect Heroin Sale, Panel Told

They May Profit From Supplying Drugs to U.S. Soldiers, Narcotics Chief Says

BY THOMAS J. FOLEY

Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — The government's chief narcotics enforcement officer said Wednesday that officials of friendly Southeast Asian governments are protecting and, may even have an interest in heroin traffic to American servicemen in Vietnam.

In testimony before the House Crime Committee, John E. Ingersoll, director of the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, also said heroin had been unwittingly smuggled into South Vietnam on airplanes of the CIA-operated Air America.

Committee Chairman Claude Pepper (D-Fla.) and other members urged the Administration to take a stronger stand with foreign friendly governments to force a halt to illicit drug traffic.

These included Turkey and France, which respectively grow and process the overwhelming amount of the opium smuggled into the United States as heroin.

Right to Ask Aid

"We're committed to risk our own cities in a nuclear war if any French city is attacked by the Communists," Pepper said, "and we have the right not only to ask but to demand that the French take emergency action to help us."

Ingersoll, who recently returned from discussions with Southeast Asia leaders on the heroin problem, said he doubted that any policy-making officials of the countries — Thailand, Laos and South Vietnam — are involved in the illicit drug traffic.

Burma, Thailand and Laos account for about 80% of the world's opium production, he said.



John E. Ingersoll
in Washington

But he told newsmen after the hearing that many lower-level officials, including members of the South Vietnamese Legislature, deal in opium. He said some legislators have friends in President Nguyen Van Thieu's cabinet.

Ingersoll told the committee that heroin refineries were under control of insurgents in Burma and Thailand but that those in Laos "are protected by elements of the royal Laotian armed forces."

Ramparts Disclosures

He said that while management and ownership of the Laotian refineries appear to be primarily in the hands of ethnic Chinese citizens of that nation, "some reports suggest" that a senior Laotian air force officer may have an ownership interest in some of the plants.

When Rep. Jerome R. Waldie (D-Calif.) noted that Ramparts magazine had identified the official as Gen. Ouane Rath Bouone, Ingersoll replied

Ingersoll denied one contention of the Ramparts article. It maintained that remnants of Chiang Kai-shek's Kuomintang army left in the area are involved in heroin production and are in the employ of the CIA for operations on the China mainland.

But Ingersoll conceded that Air America planes had been used in the past for smuggling heroin — just as regular commercial airliners have been used to smuggle it into the United States.

He told newsmen later that 80 kilograms were seized on an Air America plane at the huge Tan Son Nhut Air Base outside Saigon only three or four weeks ago.

During the hearing, Waldie also asked Ingersoll about a Ramparts report that the secret CIA base of Long Cheng, used to support the U.S.-paid Meo tribesmen, was a distribution point for heroin to be shipped into South Vietnam.

Ingersoll said he had not heard of that. However, he later said he had discussed the general illicit drug problem with CIA Director Richard Helms. He said Helms denied the CIA was involved in any way, and that he believed him.

"The Meo tribesmen are something else," Ingersoll said, "but I don't blame the CIA for what the tribesmen do."

Poor CIA Security

Waldie said CIA security was apparently "abysmally poor, since those in the CIA employ used the base and facilities for the illicit traffic."

The narcotics chief sought to allay criticism by congressmen of U.S. efforts to get the cooperation of the Asian governments to crack down on the drug traffic.

He said the United States had virtually no leverage over the Burma government, since the last

ing phased out. The opium-growing area in Thailand is in the hands of insurgents, Ingersoll said, but the Bangkok government is taking steps to try to control it.

He said Laotian officials were "most responsive" even though some high-ranking officials were involved.

Vietnam Smuggling

Ingersoll said the Saigon government had taken several steps to crack down on the smuggling, including a shakeup of its customs officials, an increase in the size of its central police force dealing with the problem and the appointment of a special task force by President Thieu.

He also said he was assigning three additional agents to the Far East and that the Defense Department had placed off limits areas of open heroin dealing.